

WHITE RIVER FAMILY PRACTICE, L.L.C.

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Ms. Kimberly Topper
Center for Drug Evaluation and Research (HFD-21)
Food and Drug Administration
5600 Fishers Lane
Rockville, Maryland 20857

Dear Ms. Topper:

I understand that you are a contact person to provide information to a committee that will discuss the medical use of opioid analgesics for the treatment of patients with chronic nonmalignant pain. I have taken the liberty of enclosing the article which I had published a couple of years ago on this topic.

I have found that it is extremely challenging to be able to effectively treat nonmalignant pain for patients in my community. One of the reasons for this has been the regulatory environment surrounding the use of opioid analgesics. I am happy to tell you, though, that the opioid analgesics have played an important role in the ability to provide effective relief of suffering to this group of patients. At the present time I have roughly fifty patients on chronic opioid maintenance therapy and an additional 150 patients receiving maintenance therapy for nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs and other prescription medications. I would be happy to provide further information about my own experience if the committee would find this useful.

I appreciate your kind attention to this matter.

Sincerely yours,



Thomas Parrott, M.D.

TP/dhd

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